
2 Nephi 21 — Isaiah 11 — The Branch from the Stump of Jesse, the Sevenfold Spirit, the Peaceable Kingdom

Rod from Jesse's stem, Spirit of the Lord rests upon him, wolf with the lamb, ensign for the nations, second-time recovery of the remnant, c. 730–700 BC.

The chapter answers Isa. 10's felled forest — out of the stump that remains, a shoot. D&C 113 devotes its first half to interpreting vv. 1, 4, 5, 10 — the Restoration has its own commentary on this chapter built into the standard works. Three load-bearing texts: the Branch from the stump of Jesse, the peaceable kingdom, the second-time recovery of the remnant. Multi-temporal prophecy — first advent, latter-day Restoration, Millennium, all visible in the same verses.

Ten Insights

- 1. Choter from the geza of Jesse (v. 1).** Twig from cut-off trunk. The shoot rises from the pre-royal stump, not from the institutional kingship. *Netzer* = Nazareth's name-root (Matt. 2:23).
- 2. Sevenfold Spirit (v. 2).** Foundational Spirit + six derivative gifts in three intellect-action pairs: wisdom/understanding, counsel/might, knowledge/fear-of-the-Lord. Aquinas-tradition's seven gifts.
- 3. Quick understanding (v. 3).** Messianic judicial method — not after the sight of the eyes. Christ knows the hearts of men (Jn. 2:24–25; D&C 6:16).
- 4. Smite earth with rod of mouth (v. 4).** Verbal deliverance. *Shevet pi-v / ruach sefatah* — same Hebrew words Paul applies to Christ's defeat of antichrist (2 Thes. 2:8).
- 5. Righteousness as girdle (v. 5).** Messianic armor is internal character. Paul exegetes in Eph. 6:13–17 — the whole armor of God.
- 6. Wolf with lamb (vv. 6–9).** *Im*-particle = co-dwelling without sameness. Atonement's cosmic outworking. Edenic curse inverted. Children play at the snake's hole.
- 7. Knowledge of the Lord (v. 9).** Peace is the byproduct of knowledge, not of law-enforcement. *As the waters cover the sea* — complete saturation. D&C 130:18–19.
- 8. Root of Jesse as ensign (v. 10).** D&C 113:5–6 identifies as a latter-day Davidic-Josephic prophetic-priesthood-bearer. Gentiles seek the ensign.
- 9. Second-time recovery (v. 11).** *Yosif Adonai shenit yado*. First time = post-exilic; second time = latter-day. Eight regions named — including islands of the sea (Lehite isle in scope).
- 10. Ephraim-Judah reconciliation (v. 13).** 925 BC schism healed. Ezek. 37:15–28's two-sticks doctrine. Restoration reads as Bible + Book of Mormon (D&C 27:5).

Cross-References

Gen. 3:15 (enmity removed); Gen. 49:10 (Shiloh); Ex. 17:15 (Jehovah-nissi); Num. 21:8–9 (brazen serpent); Num. 24:17 (Star out of Jacob); 1 Sam. 16 (Jesse and David); 2 Sam. 7 (Davidic covenant); Job 14:7–9 (stump-with-hope); Ps. 2 (Messianic king); Ps. 72 (Messianic kingdom of peace); Ps. 132 (Davidic dynasty); Prov. 8:14 (wisdom, counsel); Isa. 2:2–4 (mountain of Lord); Isa. 9:6–7 (paired chapter); Isa. 10:33–34 (forest felled — direct preface); Isa. 25:6–9 (feast on the mountain); Isa. 35:8 (highway of holiness); Isa. 49:22 (ensign cited); Isa. 65:25 (wolf and lamb — bookend); Jer. 23:5–6 (righteous Branch); Ezek. 17:22–24 (high tree planted); Ezek. 34:23–24 (one shepherd David); Ezek. 37:15–28 (two sticks made one — direct parallel to v. 13); Zech. 3:8 (Branch); Zech. 6:12–13 (Branch builds temple); Mal. 4:2 (Sun of righteousness); Matt. 1:1 (son of David); Matt. 2:23 (Nazarene — direct citation of v. 1's *netzer*); Matt. 3:16 (Spirit descends); Lk. 1:32–33 (throne of David); Lk. 4:18 (Spirit upon me); Jn. 12:32 (draw all men); Rom. 8:19–22 (creation groans); Rom. 15:12 (cited — root of Jesse); Eph. 6:14 (girdle of truth — direct exegesis of v. 5); 2 Thes. 2:8 (consume with spirit of mouth — direct citation of v. 4); Rev. 1:4 (seven spirits); Rev. 5:5 (Root of David); Rev. 22:16 (root and offspring of David); 1 Ne. 13:37 (Zion); 1 Ne. 21–22 (Nephi's gathering doctrine); 2 Ne. 10:20 (islands of the sea — direct reference); 2 Ne. 20:33–34 (forest felled — direct preface); 2 Ne. 25:17 (set hand again the second time — direct citation of v. 11); 2 Ne. 30:9–18 (Millennial peace — direct expansion); 3 Ne. 16:4–5 (remnant gathering); 4 Ne. 1:15–17 (post-Christ peaceable kingdom — historical installment); D&C 27:5 (Joseph and Judah — direct exegesis of v. 13); D&C 45:65–71 (gathering); D&C 84:2–4 (Zion); D&C 101:24–26 (no enmity in Millennium — direct expansion of vv. 6–9); D&C 110:11 (Moses delivered keys); D&C 113:1–6 (direct commentary on vv. 1, 4, 5, 10); D&C 133:26–35 (latter-day gathering); Articles of Faith 10.

Apocryphal Correlations

Psalms of Solomon 17:21–46 + 18:5–9. Most extensive 1st-century-BC Davidic-Messianic prayer, direct sevenfold-Spirit + peaceable-rule parallel.

1 Enoch 49:1–4. *In him dwells the spirit of wisdom, understanding, might* — direct sevenfold-Spirit parallel.

4 Ezra 13:32–52. Man-from-the-Sea destroys enemies *with the spirit of his mouth*, gathers peaceable multitude — direct vv. 4–9 parallel.

2 Baruch 73–74. After Messianic kingdom, animals no more shall hurt or destroy — direct peaceable-kingdom parallel.

Testament of Levi 18:1–14. New priest from Levi, heavens opened, sanctification from temple of glory — Messianic-priest parallel.

1QSb (Qumran Rule of Blessings) 5:24–29. Blessing for Prince of Congregation: *smite the peoples with the strength of your mouth* — direct citation of v. 4.

4Q161 (Pesher Isaiah) frag 8–10. Qumran's surviving commentary on Isa. 11 — applies to *the Branch of David in the latter days*.

Sirach 24:1–34. Wisdom personified — *I came out of the mouth of the most High* — direct rod-of-mouth + Wisdom Christology.

Hebrew Word Studies

choter mi-geza Yishai (חֹתֶר מִגֵּזַע יִשָּׂאִי, *twig from the stump of Jesse*) — v. 1. Four nouns in eight words. The Davidic-line's pre-royal stump produces the Messianic shoot.

netzer (נֶצֶר, *shoot / sprout*) — v. 1. Same root as Nazareth (Natz'rat = town-of-the-shoot). Matt. 2:23 reads the verse Christologically.

ruach YHWH (רוּחַ יְהוָה, *Spirit of the LORD*) — v. 2. The foundational gift; six derivative gifts in three intellect-action pairs.

shevet pi-v (שֵׁבֶט פִּי, *rod of his mouth*) — v. 4. Verbal Messianic deliverance. 2 Thes. 2:8 applies to Christ's defeat of antichrist.

im (עִם, *with — co-dwelling particle*) — v. 6. Wolf *im* lamb — co-dwelling without sameness. Zion-doctrine in grammatical form (D&C 38:27).

nes (נֶסֶם, *ensign / banner*) — v. 10. Same noun as Moses' brazen-serpent-pole (Num. 21:8) and Christ's lifted-up cross (Jn. 3:14). Restoration's gathering-pole.

Personal Application

Three practices. First, cultivate the sevenfold Spirit by naming the gifts you most lack. Wisdom? Counsel? Might? Fear of the Lord? Ask in faith for the specific gift you lack (D&C 46:7–12). Second, participate in the peaceable kingdom interiorly today. Name the wolf and lamb in your own heart; ask for the Spirit's knowledge to make them co-dwell. The peaceable kingdom begins in the disciple's interior. Third, honor the ensign by living gatherably. Your life is a node in the gathering. Be the kind of disciple under whose roof the gathering happens.